THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
615 NORTH WOLFE STREET
BALTIMORE—5, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

April 23, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Medical Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

We have been unable to obtain any transformations with the strain WH-8(SmR), but this was not too surprising since WH-8 proved to be sensitive to 50 γ/ml. streptomycin. We have, however, isolated a streptomycin resistent strain of WH-8 which is resistant to greater than 50 γ/ml. streptomycin. We shall test this strain, but I think it not likely to be successful.

The hospital bacteriology group tested the WH-8 and have identified it as a gram positive diptheroid. In addition, we have isolated a similar, if not identical, strain from our stock Rd culture. However, Rd clones even after several passages do not show any WH-8-like organisms after subculture in Penassay broth. In fact, they do not produce appreciable growth on subculture with PA. In view of these tests I conclude that WH-8 and the organism we isolated are the result of contamination.

I have arranged for United Airlines to handle the shipment of a large thermos packed with dry ice containing competent Rd cultures to Madison. The container should arrive on North Central Airline 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. There should be sufficient dry ice to hold an additional 24 hours, but it will be necessary to maintain the cultures at dry ice temperature if you wish to hold them in the competent state. You may keep the thermos for months if necessary since we have no need of it, but I should like it returned eventually.

The cells should be diluted about 1/30, i.e., 0.1 to 3 ml. broth, and the T.P. about 10^2, then incubated 30 min. at 36-37°C and further diluted 10^3 to give a reasonable number of colonies per plate.

The procedure recommended for these cells follows:
(1) 2.8 ml. broth.
(2) 0.1 ml. T.P. diluted 10^2.
(3) 0.1 ml. cells.
(4) Incubate 30 min. at 36°.
(5) Dilute 10^3 - 1.0 ml. to plate.

(6) Add ± 10 ml. Levinthal agar containing 1 γ/ml. DPN.
(7) Incubate 2 hrs. at 37°.
(8) Layer with ± 10 ml. Levinthal agar containing 500 γ/ml. streptomycin.
(9) Incubate plates 18 hrs. or more at 37 °C.

Good luck and best regards,

Sincerely,

Sol

Sol H. Goodgal

SHG:csb